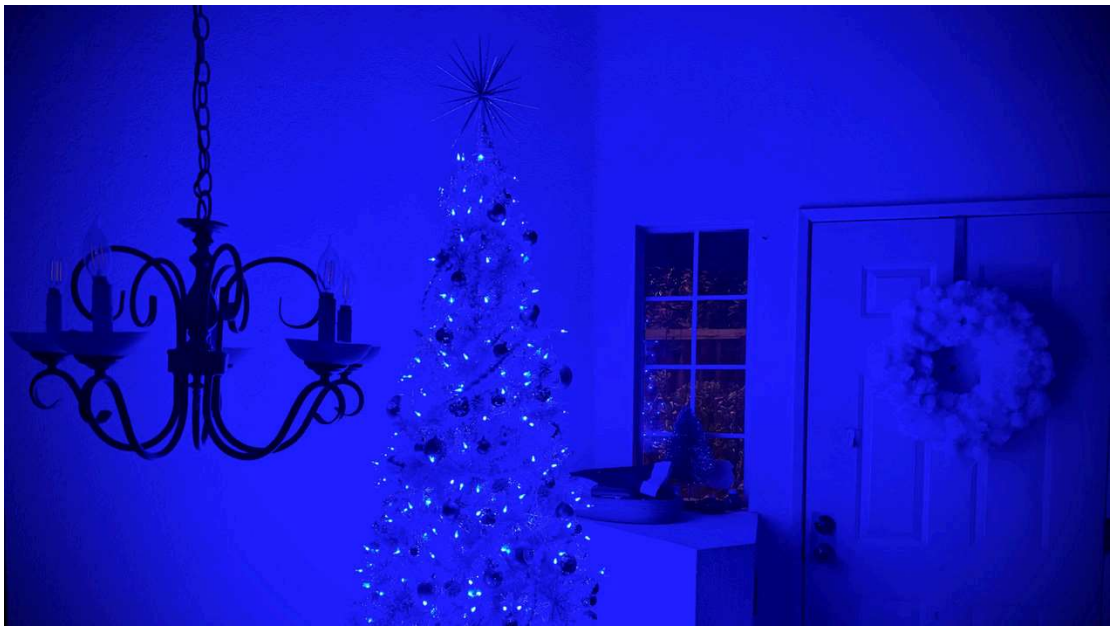
Season's Greetings!

Numismagram Newsletter #138 (XII/2024)

And just like that, we are nearly at the end of the year, with the Christmas holiday and New Year's just around the corner. For those who celebrate, decorations within (*and outside*) the abode are likely in full effect, just as our electrifyingly blue Christmas tree would indicate...



Given the impending holiday, it seemed appropriate to include a few pieces of medallic art that conveyed the seasonal feel. First up is a German piece from 1926, part of a series of works by the Lauchhammer foundry meant to celebrate the New Year...

Designed by Otto Bruno Schäfer, it features the Three Wise Men—*sometimes referred to as the Three Magi or Three Kings [hence Three Kings' Day]*—en route to the infant Christ, guided by the Star of Bethlehem and bearing their respective gifts to bestow.

Also capturing the seasonal feeling is this unsigned (*likely Hungarian and mid-20th century*) bronze plaque that displays the Christ child being adored by Mary as well as three attending angels...

For some, the holidays are a great chance to get away and go on an extravagant vacation. While we haven't gone on any recently, I am reminded of a trip to Italy and Greece in the fall of 2015, during which we were able to take in countless sites. On of those, while in Rome, was of course, the Colosseum...

This serves as a great intro to our next piece, which features that very same Colosseum, just seen from the outside rather than from within...

Issued in 1807 to commemorate the renovation of the outer wall of the Colosseum from the previous year, it towers as an immensely attractive architectural medal that predates by some forty years many of the other architectural types from the likes of Wiener in Belgium, Bianchi in Italy, and Davis in England. You'll note the die break near the right hand side of the reverse, which runs from top to bottom. This was seemingly present from the start of striking, as any example that I have ever seen has exhibited this flaw. Nevertheless, it stands as an incredible work of medallic art.

Next up are some of the other highlights from this upload...

RUSSIA. St. Petersburg. St. Isaac's Metropolitan Church bronze Medal. Issued 1858. Most Remarkable Edifices of Europe series. By Jacques Wiener in Brussels and struck at the Geerts mint in Ixelles. **PCGS SP-64**.

SWITZERLAND. Frauenfeld. Silver Shooting Medal. Issued 1890. Commemorating the federal shooting festival in Frauenfeld in Thurgau, from 20–30 July. By Hughes Bovy in Geneva. **NGC MS-61 Prooflike**.

ARGENTINA & CHILE. Peace Treaty silver Medal. Issued 1911/2 for the end of the border dispute. **PCGS MS-62**.

GREAT BRITAIN. "Haec Ubi Regnant" cast bronze Medal. Issued 1990. By David Chandler for the British Art Medal Society. ***One of just 21 made!***

For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art at the top of this newsletter. We will be back again on 2 January for our first upload of art and historical medals for the year. Until then, have a happy and safe holiday, as well as a great start in the impending new year!

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